

Bigger, Better, Friendlier

JSC's 1998 Open House will offer some new twists that should make it even more visitor-friendly than the successful 1997 event that drew more than 70,000 people.

One big change is that buses will take guests to the Sonny Carter Training Facility and Ellington Field.

The buses to the Sonny Carter Training Facility will be provided by Space Center Houston. Other buses, chartered by the center, will take people to Ellington Field.

Last year visitors had to drive to visit those sites. If they prefer, they can travel to both facilities in their own vehicles this year, too.

The tram route has been changed slightly, and information and water stations have been combined. The two were separate in 1997. Additional stations are being added.

The brochure/map people are handed at the gate also has been redesigned—enlarged to a 17-by-28-inch format, which will be folded to a convenient size. It will be printed in two colors, with the map on one side and detailed exhibit information on the other.

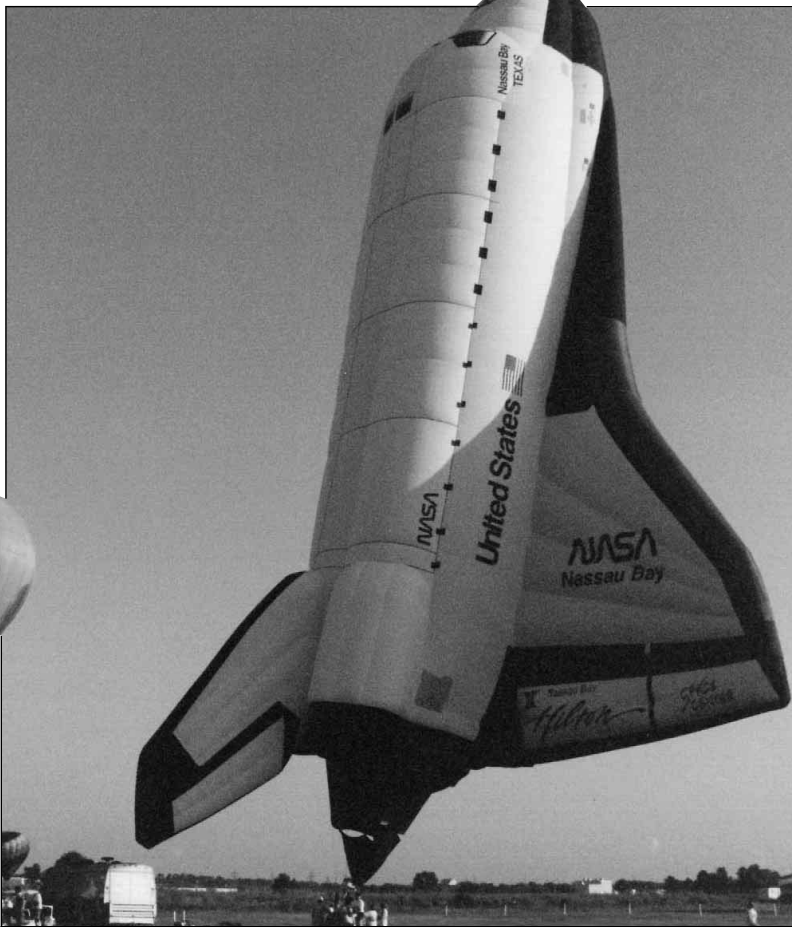


Ask not how your center can serve you...

Volunteers are still needed for Open House on Saturday, Aug. 29. JSC will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., but can offer their services in two-hour increments—two hours, four hours, six hours ... or all day. Additional Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially needed. More than 70,000 people attend-

ed the 1997 Open House, and at least that many are expected this year. This event is important to the center. It is an opportunity for us to show the public what we do—how their tax dollars are spent and what they're getting in return. Volunteers will serve at the information booths/water stations situated throughout the center. They'll have a chance to interact positively with visitors, to help show them how

important the center is to the community and the nation. To volunteer, please telephone Kacy Carraway at x35045 or e-mail her (kacy.r.carraway1@jsc.nasa.gov) with the following information: Last name, first name; mail code, telephone number, when you can work, and any special preferences or comments, and your e-mail address. A brief training class will be held before Open House.



Help make Open House safe, fun

Safety can't be allowed to take a day off on Open House Saturday, not with 70,000 or more visitors—many of them children—coming to see what JSC is all about. Just one serious safety lapse resulting in an injury could change the day from one of fun and fascination to a painful experience for the victim and the victim's family. An accident shown on the evening news is not how we want our 1998 Open House to be remembered.

Each employee volunteering to help host Open House participates in a training session, which includes safety considerations. Tracy Ferguson of the Occupational Safety and Quality Assurance Branch offers these reminders:

- Visitors may not be aware of our regulations, such as crossing streets at crosswalks or stopping their cars for pedestrians in the crosswalks, so employees need to be extra careful that day when driving and crossing streets.
 - A first aid station staffed by a nurse will be set up in the lobby of the Bldg. 8 clinic during Open House. The clinic's ambulance also will be available.
 - The emergency number is x33333. It will be on the back of volunteers' badges.
 - Employees should be prepared to help visitors evacuate during a fire alarm by showing them stairs from upper floors and exits.
 - Employees should check their areas throughout the day for potential hazards—including tripping hazards or slipping hazards, sharp objects/edges along the tour route, and shock hazards (exposed wires).
 - Remember, in checking for hazards, that a lot of children will be among our guests.
- Safety professionals will be walking around and available all day to help with any issues that may arise.

Ballunar Liftoff to complement Open House with aerial daring

The Ballunar Liftoff Festival, featuring mass ascensions of hot-air balloons, skydiving competitions and more, will be held Aug. 28, 29 and 30, complementing JSC's Aug. 29 Open House. As a result two exciting family events are available that Saturday at the space center. Ballunar Liftoff Festival Inc., the sponsoring organization, is dedicated to helping the public learn about aviation and space exploration. It also funds educational activities to help young people learn about space, mathematics and science. Opening festival ceremonies begin at 6 p.m. Friday. Events continue from 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. The schedule is subject to change.

The hot-air balloon launches will take place early in the morning and in the late afternoon. One evening contest involves balloons skimming just above the ground as their pilots try to grab a ring from atop a 20-foot pole. The winner gets a "high-dollar prize," festival officials say. About 100 balloons are expected. Skydivers will jump from 13,000 feet over the festival and land in the event's performance field. On the way down they will do aerial acrobatics and create giant human patterns. Other attractions include space and aviation hardware, music and other entertainment, food, games, arts and crafts, and exhibits of business sponsors. Admission is \$3 for adults. Children under 12 get in free.